Increase in fares of Indian Airlines and Air India

*245. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to raise the Indian Airlines and Air India fares to compensate the increased operational cost of the airlines due to recent hike in oil prices ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Whereas there is no proposal to enhance the fares of Air India, Government has approved the proposal of Indian Airlines to enhance the Fuel Surcharge component of the fares by 10 per cent on the basic fare as prevailing before the 29th May, 1985.

श्री धूलेश्वर मीणा : माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि :

> "There is no proposal to enhance the fares of Air India, Government has approved the proposal of Indian Airlines to enhance the Fuel Surcharge component of the fares by 10 per cent..."

श्रीमन्, मंत्री जी के उत्तर के बाद मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि इस में कुछ कांट्रेडिक्शन है । आप ने बम्बई में सेकिंड माडेल का उद्घाटन करने जब गये थे, तो कहा था :

> "The Indian Airlines and Vayudoot have had to increase their fares as there was no financial support from the Government."

तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जो आप ने उत्तर दिया है यह सत्य है या प्रेस में जो दिया गया है वह सत्य है ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : It is a fact that we do not get any budgetary support in my Ministry, Sir. We have to generate all. And the fare is controlled on the basis of the increase in the fuel price which is controlled by the Central Government.

श्री धूलेश्वर मीणा : श्रीमन्, आप ने बताया है कि खासकर एयर इन्डिया के किराये में बढ़ोत्तरी नहीं करना है । और इंण्डियन एयरलाइन्स का सरचार्ज बढ़ाने के लिए कहा है । तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जब तेल के भाव बढ़ गये हैं तो उसके बाद भी आप किराये में कोई बढ़ोत्तरी नहीं करना चाहते हैं तो फिर परिचालन लागत की पूर्ति आप किस प्रकार करेंगे क्योंकि आप ने फरमाया है कि :

> "The cost of ATF has gone up by 50 paise per litre".

और ट्रैवलिंग पब्लिक से आप दो परसेंट चार्ज करेंगे । तो इस कमी को पूरा करने के लिये आप क्या करेंगे ? इसको आप कैसे पूरा करेंगे ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Sir, as I said, the average price of aviation turbine fuel, including sales tax and other duties which have been imposed by the Central Government, has been raised from Rs. 5442/- per kilo litre to Rs. 6227.10 per kilo litre. That means, the actual increse is Rs. 585.10 per kilolitre which constitutes an increase of 10.7 per cent. This would add a sum of Rs. 35.11 crores to the operating cost of the Indian Airlines during 1986-87. To offset this increase, the Indian Airlines has been permitted to enhance the fuel surcharge by 10 per cent of the basic fare as prevailing before 29th May, 1985. This would result in an increase of approximately not 10 per cent but 6.3 per cent in the existing total fares.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, both the question and the answer are not as simple as they seem. Rightly or wrongly, Sir,

both these airlines, the Indian Airlines and the Air India in our country are the monopolies and people are left with no alternative but to put up with all their inefficiencies and inordinate delays. Even day before yesterday morning, Sir, for the 99th time in my travelling career, I was not served the breakfast because they ran out of vegetarian breakfast. Anyway, Sir, coming to my specific question .. (*Interruptions*) A vegetarian cannot eat non-vegetarian food but a non-vegetarian can eat vegetarian food.

MR. CHAIRMAN : They think that you can afford to miss your breakfast.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Some non-vegetarians will not take vegetarian food at all.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Coming to my specific question, in the light of the Minister's recent statement in the press that the Indian Airlines and the Air India have made huge profits this year of amounts like Rs. 40 crores and Rs. 32 crores, will the Government at least reconsider their decision or at least in future see that this sort of loss is absorbed in the profits ? Secondly, Sir, the Minister has said, not in the answer luckily, that it does not matter if we are going to raise the fares because 98 per cent of the people who travel in the Indian Airlines are MPs, Government servants and businessmen and, therefore, only 2 per cent travel on their own. Is this the reason for this increase ? I would only like to know whether the Indian Airlines, instead of presenting a rosy picture which is actually false—it doe not earn that much profit on merits—consider absorbing this loss or have some sort of guidelines when the fare can be increased or the fuel surcharge can be increased. Finally, from which date it is going to come into effect ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: The Indian Airlines is not giving a false picture. Sir, for every single aircraft we buy, we do not use a single pie of the taxes or the taxpayer's money. It is a self-generating, one. Even in the matter of foreign exchange which we earn, rather we had helped the Central Government, crores of rupees have been given to them. As far as your breakfast is concerned, I will see that you get it next time. What was the last part ?

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Can you absorb this loss ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Can you absorb this increase because you have a profit in the working of the IAC.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : We cannot, Sir, because the depreciation on the aircraft, the insurance, and then the cost of the spare parts which had to be got from outside are going up everyday.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: When are you going to implement it?

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the date from which you are going to implement it ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I think, in another ten days' time. But I want to make one thing clear that 68 per cent are the people who are travelling on expense account or company account, 25 per cent are the tourists, 5 per cent are the public sector/Government servants, and only 2 per cent at self-paying ones.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL : Sir, whether you increase the fare or you increase the fuel surcharge, it is all the same for the passengers. Now, if you increase this, as Mr. Ramakrishnan has said, you have to provide certain amenities also. He was talking of breakfast. Sir, I tell you

an instance. On the 23rd February, I had to go to Cochin to attend a meeting. The 10 O'clock flight left at 3 O'clock and we were served lunch neither here nor in the plane. Somehow the Minister was also available there. He came there and he was surrounded at the airport by the passengers who were stuck up there. No lunh was provided there. Therefore, Sir, I would like to know whether these common amenities.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not relevant. Shri Ashwani Kumar.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL : Sir, I have not completed. I have just started.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your question is not relevant. (*Interruption*) Shri Ashwani Kumar.

श्री अश्विनी कमार माननीय सभापति महोदय, अभी जो पेट्रोलियम के दामों में बढोतरी हुई है उसके बाद इंडियन एयरलाइन्स ने 10 परसेंट सरचार्ज बढाने का निर्णय किया है और जब यह घोषणा की जा रही है कि एयर इंडिया के ऊपर हम नहीं बढा रहे हैं तो वास्तव में एयर इंडिया जितना पेट्रोल खरीदता है उसमें से जो विदेशों से खरीदता है वह हिन्दुस्तान से सस्ता पडता है और एयर इंडिया के बहुत से लासेज इसलिये हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान में जो पेट्रोल खरीदना पड़ता है वह विदेशों से बहुत मंहगा खरीदना पड़ता है। जब मन्त्री महोदय यह कहते हैं कि हम एयर इंडिया पर नहीं बढा रहे हैं तो यह कोई बहुत बडी कृपा नहीं हैं। मैं इतना ही जानना चाहूंगा कि यह जो भिन्न-भिन्न प्रकार के सरचार्ज बढाते हैं तो कैलकुलेशन से बढ़ाते हैं, आप सीधे फेयर बढ़ा कर उसके रुपये, आने पैसे क्यों नही हटा देते हैं ? क्योंकि 4, 6 का जो कैलकुलेशन होता है उसमें प्रोब्लम होती है। सीधे कहिये कि 560 से 600 रुपये कर दिया। इसमें करने में कोई आपत्ति नहीं हैं। दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि जब आप कहते हैं कि आपकी एफिशिएंसी है और आप एफिशिएंसी के आधार पर चल रहे हैं तो यह जो थोड़ा सा इन्क्रीज हुआ है तो क्या इसको आप अपनी एफिशियन्सी के साथ एब्जोर्ब करने के लिये तैयार नहीं हैं ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Sir, I have already answered this question.

श्री शमीम अहमद सिद्दीकी : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि आप जो इंडियन एयर लाइन्स के अन्दर किराया बढ़ा रहे हैं इससे आम जनता के ऊपर कितना असर पड़ेगा इसको जरा तफसील में बता दें ?

श्री जगदीश टाइटलर : : दो परसेंट आम जनता पर असर पड़ेगा।

SHRI S.W. DHABE : Sir, the airlines is a transport organisation which is based on the principle of service. If the hon. Minister thinks that every price hike in the case of fuel gives him a right to increase the fares, he is not correct. This has been held to be so by the Gujarat High Court. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the will also consider the question of increasing and improving the passenger amenities. In the planes, even magazines are not available in the evening services. The hon. Minister should not think that he has only to increase the passenger fares because of the hike in the fuel price and he need not bother about the passenger amenities.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is asking, when you have raised the fares, will you also increase the facilities.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : We are already looking into this.

Director-General of the Sports Authority of India

*246. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT :

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:†

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Director-General of the Sports Authority of India was reprimanded in the past by Government;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Suresh Kalmadi.